

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 14 are pending. Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 6-13 have been cancelled. Claim 14 is newly presented. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-12 were rejected for containing various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to correct these informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and have cancelled claims 12 and 13 and added claim 14 which is substantially identical to previously added claim 12 which was numbered 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Claims 1-3, 5, 10, 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 2000-006283 (JP '283). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a joint structure between a core layer and a skin layer that includes a foam staying space between an inner side surface of the core layer and the skin end portion of the skin layer. In contrast, JP '283 discloses a method for preventing foam from leaking by using a stepped part 13 with a streak groove 17. As shown in Figure 2 of JP '283 the groove 17 does not contain any foam as the Office Action alleges. In fact, the groove 17 and the stepped part 13 are in contact with each other to prevent foam from entering the groove 17 which is formed with the wall 11. Accordingly, JP '283 fails to teach, or even suggest, a joint structure between a core layer and a skin layer that includes a foam staying space between an inner side surface of the core layer and the skin end portion of the skin layer, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 since claim 3 recites features similar to those of claim 1 discussed above.

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled and claims 2 and 5 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 3 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over KR 2002-088479 (KR '479). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 6-11.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 4, 6-9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP '283 in view of EP 768 160 (EP '160). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 6-9 have been cancelled and claims 4 and 12 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 3 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 3 and because EP '160 does not remedy the deficiencies of JP '283 discussed above with respect to claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over KR '479 in view of JP '283. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a joint structure between a core layer and a skin layer for manufacturing a partial foaming part of which a polyurethane foam layer is formed between the core layer and the skin layer that includes a foam staying space is provided between an inner side surface of the core layer and the skin end portion of the skin layer.

In contrast, KR '479 discloses a method for reducing the loss of materials that includes a leakage prevention jaw 2a on the core layer and a semicircular leakage prevention groove. There is no disclosure in KR '479 that indicates this structure is analogous to the foam staying space recited in claim 1. In fact, as indicated in the disclosure, the structure recited is for preventing the generation of a gap between the core layer and the skin layer. Accordingly, KR '479 fails to teach or suggest a foam staying space as recited in claim 1. As discussed above, JP '283 does not teach or suggest a foam staying layer. Therefore, JP '283 fails to remedy the deficiency of KR '479 discussed above. Accordingly, no combination of KR '479 and JP '283 teach or suggest a joint structure between a core layer and a skin layer for manufacturing a partial foaming part of which a polyurethane foam layer is formed between the core layer and the skin layer that includes a foam staying space provided between an inner side surface of the core layer and the skin end portion of the skin layer, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 since claim 3 recites features similar to those of claim 1 discussed above.

Claims 2 and 5 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 3 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

C. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over KR '479 in view of EP '160. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 3 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 3 and because EP '160 does not remedy the deficiencies of KR '479 discussed above with respect to claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.


Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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